

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 00322 091514Z

43

ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 MC-02 L-03 TRSE-00 OMB-01 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2755

INFO USDOC WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, MASS, NI

SUBJECT: SALE OF U.S. TRAINING PLANES TO NIGERIA

REF: LAGOS 12144

1. ON JANUARY 7 EMBASSY RECEIVED FORMAL NOTE FROM MEA INFORMING US OF NIGERIAN AIR FORCE INTENTION TO ACQUIRE TWO SQUADRONS OF T-2 JET TRAINERS (24 AIRCRAFT) FROM ROCKWELL INTERNATIONAL, COLUMBUS, OHIO. TEXT OF NOTE FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND HAS THE HONOUR TO INFORM THE EMBASSY THAT NIGERIAN AIR FORCE PROPOSES TO ACQUIRE TWO SQUADRONS OF 5-2 JET TRAINERS MANUFACTURED BY MESSRS. ROCKWELL OF U.S.A.

THE MINISTRY SHOULD, THEREFORE, BE GRATEFUL IF THE EMBASSY WOULD KINDLY APPROACH THE APPROPRIATE UNITED STATES' AUTHORITIES URGENTLY FOR EARLY DISCUSSIONS ON THE PROPOSED PURCHASE.

THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AVAILS ITSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA THE ASSURANCES OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION. END QUOTE.

2. AS FORESEEN IN REFTTEL, FMG IS REQUESTING USG AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO SALE AND TRAINING PROGRAM DONE THROUGH FMS. WE ESTIMATE COST OF PACKAGE WOULD APPROXIMATE DOLLARS 100 MILLION.
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PAGE 02 LAGOS 00322 091514Z

WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT ADVANTAGES IN PROPOSED

PURCHASE OF TRAINER AIRCRAFT (AND RELATED TRAINING PROGRAM)
OUTWEIGH DISADVANTAGES, AND WE RECOMMEND WASHINGTON GIVE FAVORABLE
CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZE EMBASSY MAKE PROMPT AFFIRMATIVE
RESPONSE TO FMG.

3. ON RECEIPT USG CONCURRENCE, EMBASSY WILL INFORM FMG WHICH
WILL THEN NEGOTIATE TRANSACTION IN DETAIL WITH ROCKWELL. WE
SUGGEST THAT DEPARTMENT ALSO NOTIFY WILLIAM HENDERSON, MANAGER
INTERNATIONAL MARKETING, COLUMBUS AIRCRAFT DIVISION, ROCKWELL
INTERNATIONAL, 4300 EAST FIFTH AVE., COLUMBUS, OHIO. SUGGEST
DEPARTMENT INFORM HENDERSON, HOWEVER, THAT FMG DOES NOT REPEAT
NOT WISH ANY PREMATURE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PREFERS MAKE
FIRST PUBLIC STATEMENT OF F-2 SALE ITSELF.
EASUM

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Message Attributes

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